

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 2192

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FOR GARRISON FROM MATLOCK

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. FOR AMBASSADOR TOON: FEDOSEYEV RECENTLY SUGGESTED, OUT OF BLUE, THAT WE SEND HIM A NEW LETTER REQUESTING FURTHER CALLS BY YOU ON SOVIET OFFICIALS. HE IMPLIED THAT SUCH A LETTER WOULD BE FAVORABLY RECEIVED. THIS FEDOSEYEV "INITIATIVE" MAY BE CONNECTED WITH PONOMAREV'S APPRECIATION FOR THE WAY HE WAS TREATED IN THE U.S. - YOU WILL RECALL THAT WHEN YOU MET PONOMAREV LAST DECEMBER HE EXPLICITLY LINKED YOUR ACCESS TO THE UPPER LEVELS OF THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP WITH THE WAY HIS TRIP WOULD GO. WE SUGGEST THAT WE TEST THE WATERS WITH AN INITIAL LETTER TO FEDOSEYEV REQUESTING ON YOUR BEHALF CALLS ON GROMYKO, PONOMAREV, USTINOV AND SUSLOV - THE LATTER IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMISSION OF THE SUPREME SOVIET'S COUNCIL OF THE UNION. WE WOULD PROPOSE SENDING THE LETTER THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 20, AND REQUESTING THE CALLS FOR THE WEEKS OF MARCH 5 AND 13. PLEASE ADVISE.

2. WE SHALL OF COURSE FOLLOW ANY INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED FORMALLY IN OPEN CHANNEL FOR DEALING WITH RABBI POLLACK
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REGARDING TALMUDIC COMMENTARY. HOWEVER, IT IS ABSOLUTELY CLEAR THAT THE EMBASSY HAS NO RPT NO FACILITIES FOR RETAINING AND PRESERVING THE VOLUMES AND WE BELIEVE ANY REQUESTS THAT WE DO SO SHOULD BE REJECTED CATEGORICALLY. AS FOR GIFT TO LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, EXPORT WOULD BE LEGALLY POSSIBLE ONLY IF SOVIET EXPORT REGULATIONS REGARDING EXPORT OF ANTIQUITIES AND WORKS OF ART ARE SATISFIED, IN WHICH CASE SHIPMENT COULD BE MADE

BY NORMAL COMMERCIAL MEANS. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT POINT OF LEGALITY AND I TRUST THAT WE DO NOT BREAK THE LAW JUST BECAUSE A CONGRESSMAN ASKS US TO DO SO. (WOULD WE POUCH ILLEGALLY PRE-COLUMBIAN ARTIFACTS FROM A LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRY JUST BECAUSE THEY WERE DONATED TO THE SMITHSONIAN BY A PRIVATE CITIZEN, BYPASSING LOCAL LAW? OF COURSE NOT*)

3. THIS EXERCISE COULD NOT BE CONDUCTED WITHOUT THE VERY LIKELY KNOWLEDGE OF THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES, WHO DOUBTLESS WILL BE FULLY CONVERSANT WITH WHAT RABBI POLLACK DOES HERE. WE HAVE QUITE ENOUGH TROUBLE WITH OUR LEGITIMATE POUCHES WITHOUT COURTING A TOTALLY NEEDLESS CONTRETEMPS - AND HANDING THE SOVIETS A CONVENIENT PRETEXT FOR INTERFERING WITH OUR POUCHES. FURTHERMORE, I DO NOT SEE HOW YOU CAN POSSIBLY ASSURE THE AMBASSADOR THAT THIS IS A ONE-TIME EXCEPTION. (WE'VE HAD THEM BEFORE.) WHAT HAPPENS THE NEXT TIME WE ARE ASKED BY SOMEONE ON THE HILL TO DO SOMETHING SIMILAR? IN SHORT, I WOULD STRONGLY URGE THAT WE SIMPLY TELL THE CONGRESSMAN THAT WE WILL NOT INVOLVE OURSELVES IN CONTRAVENTION OF A CLEAR AND EXPLICIT SOVIET LAW. IF POLLACK THEN INSISTS ON DUMPING THE COMMENTARIES ON US, WE WOULD SIMPLY DELIVER THEM TO MFA UNDER COVER OF A NOTE REQUESTING EXPORT PERMISSION ON BEHALF OF THE RABBI. PLEASE DISCUSS THIS FURTHER WITH AMBASSADOR TOON.

4. RE PARA ONE OF STATE 36653: YOU ARE CORRECT IN ASSUMING THAT CORRESPONDENTS AND BUSINESSMEN CAN RECEIVE BOOKS AND PRINTED CONFIDENTIAL

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MATERIALS THROUGH THE MAILS (VIA HELSINKI OR VIENNA) AS LONG AS THEY COME FROM THE INDIVIDUAL'S SPONSORING ORGANIZATION. A FEW OF THE CORRESPONDENTS HAVE COMPLAINED ABOUT THE RELUCTANCE OF THEIR HOME OFFICES TO HELP THEM OUT, BUT IN MOST RESPECTS THIS IS WORKING WELL. SCIENCE AND EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGEES CAN SIMILARLY RECEIVE NECESSARY LITERATURE, WITH THE DIFFERENCE THAT SUCH MAILINGS FROM SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS WILL USUALLY COME ALL THE WAY FROM WASHINGTON IN THE POUCH VIA THE DEPARTMENT. BASICALLY, WE ARE CHANNELING "BOOKS AND PRINTED MATERIALS" THROUGH SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS WHICH PRESUMABLY PUTS A CONTROL ON UNAUTHORIZED ITEMS. IF THE INCOMING PACKAGE IS FROM THE INDIVIDUAL'S HOME OFFICE, WE CONSIDER IT TO BE A LEGITIMATE PART OF THAT PERSON'S NECESSARY PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION. MATLOCK

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